

NHs in Kerala

3149. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways in Kerala and the total amount spent on their maintenance and upkeep during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the proposals pending for upgradation of State Highways into National Highways; and

(c) the status of each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The length of National Highways (NHs) in Kerala is 1526 km. The amount spent on their upkeep and maintenance during the last 3 years starting from 2004-05 is Rs 31.83 crore, Rs. 55.45 crore and Rs. 19.89 crore respectively.

(b) and (c) There is only one proposal received from the Government of Kerala for declaring the State road as National Highway. At present, declaration of new roads as National Highway is not the priority of the Government. The emphasis is on improvement of the existing National Highways to NH standards.

Road Safety and Traffic Management Boards

3150. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned over the growing number of road accidents in the country, Government have earmarked one per cent of the total proceeds of the cess on diesel and petrol for the Road Safety Fund, which would be about Rs. 120 crore;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to set up National and State Road Safety and Traffic Management Boards;

(c) whether the National and State boards are to be constituted through an Act of Parliament with members and experts drawn from various fields; and